



11 November 2013

The Hon Tony Abbott MP  
Prime Minister of Australia  
PO Box 6022  
Parliament House  
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Prime Minister

Thank you for your kind endorsement of the Global Slavery Index. The launch of the inaugural Index at Chatham House last month was a resounding success. In just three weeks, we have had over 10,000 downloads of the Index report itself, hundreds of media articles globally and the Index has been referred to in Parliaments and UN mechanisms around the world.

You know I feel passionately about the importance of leveraging corporate and government buying power to combat modern slavery. For this reason, I was concerned to learn recently that the Attorney-General's Supply Chains Working Group, the purpose of which is to identify measures to address the risks of modern slavery in supply chains, has been placed on hold. Instead of asking you to reinstate this important mechanism for generating dialogue among relevant stakeholders, may I offer Walk Free's expert advice be offered to the Attorney General to ensure Australian business supply chains are slave proof.

As demonstrated by my own experience in discovering slavery in my supply chains, Australian businesses are most often exposed to this crime through their procurement and supply operations overseas. I know from my personal experience that identifying and addressing slavery in the transnational supply chain context is challenging work. Businesses are beginning to actively seek guidance on this issue, and the Attorney General or Walk Free will would provide a platform to further the efforts of business, alongside government and community experts to drive modern slavery out of supply chains, globally.

A crucial commitment of the Walk Free Foundation is to raise awareness and work with businesses to try to ensure that products are free from modern slavery. Last month for instance, in Melbourne, we announced a partnership with the Chartered Institute of Purchasing and Supply (CIPS) to build a global community of over 1 million procurement professionals with the knowledge, capability and incentive to drive ethical behaviour in their supply chains. We would look forward to sharing our experiences with the Attorney General if you think this appropriate.



We commended the Government's announcement in March this year that new procurement rules in the Department of Finance and Deregulation would ensure that its own supply chains were 'slavery free'.

Making sure Australia's supply chains, in both public and private sectors, are slavery free can only be achieved with your Government's support. I look forward to working with you and the Attorney General to achieve this worthy goal.

Yours faithfully

**WALK FREE FOUNDATION**

**ANDREW FORREST**  
Chairman